

British Unit Report

Since the World Assembly in Houston, September 2016, Methodist Women in Britain have actively engaged with the quinquennial theme 'Chosen People Called to Proclaim', proclaiming the Gospel through the Word, action, and through love and support for those in need.

1. Proclaiming through Worship and Bible Study

- On World Federation(WF) Day 2016 we were able to introduce the theme through studying 1 Peter 2:9 and give 'A Taste of Texas' to many who had been unable to travel to Houston.
- 'Mind the Gap' - on WF day 2017 we concentrated on SDG 5, studying gender inequality both within our own society and further afield. We learned how we could protest against certain issues, and through Bible Study how Jesus accepted those who were marginalised, irrespective of gender, race or social standing.
- 'Leaving the Familiar' a creative worship day, held in the city of Liverpool in May 2017, helped to open our eyes to the world around us both historically in Britain's part in the slave trade, and the current situation of homelessness and hopelessness felt by many people.
- Each year MWiB write an act of worship for use throughout the Methodist Church in Britain around Eastertime. This year's theme, based on 1 Peter 3 8-11 and written by our past HKMS Rachel Collins, is 'Seek Peace and Pursue it' a theme very relevant to today's world.
- In Spring we hold our Annual MWiB Residential Conference in which we study a particular theme through worship, keynote speakers, Bible study and workshops. In 2017 our theme 'Welcome' was led by Bishop Rosemarie Wenner and in 2018 'Oceans of Justice, rivers of Fairness' based on Amos 5: 21-24 was lead by Rachel Lampard MBE.
- The current MWiB Presidential theme 'Water for Life: Water of Life' over the next 2 years is based on SDG 6 and Biblical references John 4 1-26 and Rev 22:17

2. Proclaiming through Relationships

- MWiB and MWI are building closer working relationships through exchanging invitations to share in our Annual Residential Conferences and inclusion in the Prayer Diary. This enables us to actively pray for each other as we work in our areas to proclaim the Gospel of Christ.
- Through the Methodist World Church Relationships Team we have been encouraged and enabled to participate in a number of visits to church communities overseas. In 2017 and 2018 Anne Browse and Pam Stenson visited and formed relationships with the church in Germany. Encouraged by Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, Anne and Pam were able to visit churches and centres which were actively working with refugees.
- In September 2017 Anne accompanied by Rev Deborah Kirk attended the General Synod of the Church of North India (CNI), continuing the relationship formed with CNI in 2015.

- In April 2017 I visited the Evangelical Church in Bolivia and formed friendships with the leadership of FEFEME these links continue as we aim to support their work with vulnerable women in El Alto.
- In February 2018 Carolyn Lawrence Area Vice President, and Rachel Allison HKMS visited Germiston in South Africa where they stayed with Mission Partner Rev Jane Day. The aim was to visit 'Magnify' a leadership program written and delivered by Jane which aims to equip, encourage and empower women to serve God wherever they are in God's mission.

3. Proclaiming through Social Action

- MWiB is currently able to offer Social Action Grants within the UK. These grants give financial help to initiatives which support their local communities across Britain. Initiatives include outreach such as dementia care, luncheon clubs, puppet ministry, baby and parent /carer support groups, cookery classes and Foodbanks, safe space for women and gardening for groups with challenging behaviour.

- Each year MWiB donates £10,000 to initiatives working to empower women and girls overseas by providing staff and training costs, or by buying equipment to facilitate their work. Current examples are:-

'Magnify' The women's leadership project in South Africa mentioned above.

'Children of Hope' meeting the health needs of vulnerable children in Uganda

'Internship programs' for young Christians in Nepal.

- The partnership with CNI continues with scholarship funding approved for 24 girls and 6 boys to enable them to pursue training in a variety of potential professions such as teaching and nursing.

We praise and thank God for the opportunities he has placed before us which have enabled us to proclaim his presence and love through word and action.

Sandra Goodwin : Unit President Methodist Women in Britain

1st May 2018